Module 6: Effects of Agile on Pre-Contract Award

TLO: Given a DoD program involved in software development, the student will identify key pre-contract award activities needed to be effective in an Agile environment

ELOs

1. Identify pre-award characteristics of an acquisition strategy that allows for Agile solicitations
2. Recognize technical aspects that contribute to the evaluation of bidders on an Agile RFP
3. Identify the benefits and risks associated with various contract type(s) in an Agile environment

Assessment

MT - Make acquisition strategy language to allow for agile (ELO 1)

MT - Determining the contract type should be based on the understanding of system context, not the use of Agile approaches (ELO 1)

LP – Evaluate that the contractor has a logical approach for execution that accommodates Agile (ELO 2)

LP - Both sides need to understand Agile risks and associated mitigations (ELO 3)

MT - The Contract is only as good as the contracting relationship, leadership must foster environment for good and effective contract management in Agile environment (ELO 3)

MT - The contract type is not as important as incremental delivery and incremental review (ELO 3)

Module Story

What story do we want to tell as motivation and to support terminal learning objective

Module Contents

1-Acquisition Strategy to accommodate Agile philosophy (ELO 1)

2-Writing RFP’s allowing for Agile Methodology (ELOs 1,2)

3-Contracting approaches for an Agile environment (ELO 3)

4-Evaluating Bidders in Agile Contracting Environment (ELO 2)

Subtopic 1: Acquisition Strategy to accommodate Agile philosophy

- Types of Acq. Strategies
  - Software Development as a Service (SDAAS)
  - Product focus
    - Other factors need to be considered in an Agile environment
      - Incentives tied to the contract could be different
- Level of involvement of the Govt
  - Program Office to monitor technical effort
    - Increased frequency of Govt involvement to ensure requirements are met
  - Government developer
    - Integration handoffs is key
- Applying flexibility within the acquisition life cycle to accommodate agile approaches when applicable
- Index of Major Takeaways
  - Make acquisition strategy language to allow for agile.

Need to be reworked: Decide how to deal with acquisition plans

Subtopic 2: Writing RFP's allowing for Agile Methodology

- Allowing for incremental technical review
- Level of detail of work effort – too detailed doesn't work
- Frequency and detail of CDRLs - too detailed doesn't work (should reflect agile principles)
- Flexible prioritization of release contents
- Allowing for incremental delivery
- Index of Major Takeaways
  - The Contract is only as good as the contracting relationship, leadership must foster environment for good and effective contract management in Agile environment.

Subtopic 3: Contracting approaches for an Agile environment

- Cost Reimbursable
  - Incentive structure reflects desired performance (benefit or risk depending on application)
  - What's challenging?
    - Lack of clear path to meeting requirements
- Fixed Price
  - Best effort (benefit or risk depending on application)
  - What's challenging?
    - Deliverable may not be quality
- IDIQ/BPA (task order) type of contracts
  - Built in flexibility
  - What's challenging?
    - Incremental delivery undefined until the task order
- Index of Major Takeaways
  - The contract "type" is not as important as incremental delivery and incremental review
  - Determining the contract type should be based on the understanding of system context, not the use of Agile approaches

Subtopic 4: Evaluating Bidders in Agile Contracting Environment

- How well proposal illustrates the chosen/proposed Agile approach
  - Addressing Agile Myths from Module 3
  - Understanding of risk identification and mitigation
  - Evaluating past performance
  - Both sides understand their roles
  - Intended cadence of interaction
- Index of Major Takeaways
  - Evaluate the contractor has a logical approach for execution that accommodates Agile.
  - Both sides need to understand Agile risks and associated mitigations.